

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 573 without my signature.

This bill would prohibit health insurance plans from including a provision in a policy that the insurer is not liable for losses resulting from the insured's being intoxicated or under the influence of a controlled substance unless administered on the advice of a physician.

Last year I vetoed a nearly identical bill, SB 1157 (Ortiz). I continue to encourage the healthcare profession to conduct screenings and offer counseling and intervention services for drug and alcohol abuse. Coverage for services for injuries incurred due to alcohol and drug use should be available, but not mandated. I believe it is important to give people coverage choices so that they may purchase health insurance products to suit their individual needs.

For this reason, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger